

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC  
Form 4  
June 19, 2015

**FORM 4**

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
SMITH O BRUTON

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD

(Street)

CHARLOTTE, NC 28212

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

06/16/2015

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Chairman and CEO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount                            | (D) | Price |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transaction | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|

## Edgar Filing: SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC - Form 4

| Security (Instr. 3)  | or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | any (Month/Day/Year) | Code (Instr. 8) | Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 3 and 4) |                  |                 |                      |                            |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
|                      |  |                      | Code            | V   | (A)              | (D)              | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title                | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Class B Common Stock | (1)                                      | 06/16/2015           | S               |   | 202.93           | (2)              | (1)              | (1)             | Class A Common Stock | 202.93                     |
| Class B Common Stock | (1)                                      |                      |                 |   |                  |                  | (1)              | (1)             | Class A Common Stock | 2,171,250                  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                  |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer          | Other |
| SMITH O BRUTON<br>C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.<br>5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD<br>CHARLOTTE, NC 28212 | X             | X         | Chairman and CEO |       |

## Signatures

/s/ O. Bruton  
Smith

06/19/2015

\*\*Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock are convertible into shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class A Common Stock on a 1-for-1 basis at the option of the reporting person and there is no expiration date.  
The reported securities are held by Sonic Financial Corporation ("SFC"), a North Carolina corporation of which the reporting person is a shareholder, officer and director. On June 16, 2015, the reporting person transferred voting shares of SFC to certain of his lineal descendants in connection with estate and financial planning, and therefore, such transaction constitutes a proportionate transfer of his pecuniary interest in shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock held by SFC.
- (3) Based solely on the closing price of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class A Common Stock on June 15, 2015, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange.
- (4) Represents the entire amount of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock held by SFC. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock held by SFC, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.